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HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Wednesday, February 15, 1933.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "Convenient Closets for The Children." Information approved by the  
Bureau of Home Economics, U.S.D.A.

---ooOoo---

Fellow Homemakers, let me lead you this morning in a Chatauqua salute to modern psychology and old-fashioned commonsense.

When you can get that pair -- modern psychology and old-fashioned common sense -- when you can get them to agree on a proposition, I submit that the proposition is completely sound and practical.

Well, then, what I want to talk to you about this morning is completely sound and practical. This completely sound and practical part of the art of homemaking is, to state it flatly without any further preliminary remarks, the important matter of providing convenient equipment for the younger children to use in taking care of their clothing.

Now the way in which I justify talking about such a seemingly trivial subject as this is by an appeal to modern psychology and old-fashioned common sense. The experts in the principles of child psychology tell us unanimously that modern children, if they're to grow up into happy, successful men and women, need early training that will give them habits of self reliance, responsibility, and orderliness.

Old-fashioned common sense tells us exactly the same thing.

The seemingly trivial matter of arranging special equipment that will make it possible for children to take proper care of their own clothing has much to do with teaching the child in the modern home these habits of self reliance and responsibility and orderliness. In the modern city household especially, taking care of his own clothing is one of the few ways a child has open to him to learn such habits. Most of the jobs that children do in small town and farm households are done by hired help outside the home in the city household -- by the laundry, and dry cleaner, and the janitor in the apartment house, and the other servants of the modern city dweller.

So, let me expound to you today some of the principles that the home economists have been setting up to govern the arrangement of the simple equipment necessary to help train children to take care of their own clothing. You see, half the battle is won the minute you give a child a chance to take care of his clothing, even though his arms are short and his fingers inexperienced. The proper simple equipment, such as low hooks, plenty of hangers and low shelves or drawers that slide easily, will help give the child a sense of pride in accomplishment as he looks after his own possessions each day. But of course if your equipment is of





the right size and height for adults, and there is no smaller equipment for the children, they will have a hard time carrying out your orders as to taking care of their own clothing. So here are some practical suggestions on making arrangements that will help train modern children to be neat and orderly and take the responsibility of caring for their own clothing.

First, fix a place for the children to put their play clothes as they come into the house. If they come in at the basement door, put a strip of hooks at the right height for them to reach just as near as possible to the door. Then above it, place a narrow shelf, oh, six or seven inches wide, to hold caps and mittens. And on the floor below keep a wooden box, or set a little shelf just above the floor, or even a market basket on the floor to hold rubbers and galoshes in wet and muddy weather. Just inside the outer door, have a mat for the children to stand on while taking off their rubbers. And a small, easily handled broom nearby that even the smallest can use to brush dust or snow off his footwear.

But perhaps you'll have to arrange for the children to hang their wraps in the hall closet. If you do, provide high shelves for the hats of adult members of the family, and low shelves for the children's hats. Also a high rod and hangers for the grown-ups' coats, and a low rod with smaller hangers for the children. Also, a little side shelf for sweaters and scarfs. And a low narrow shelf just above the floor for footwear. You may want to put cloth pockets on the door for gloves.

Then label everything with the name of the member of the family who uses it--- every hook, every space, every hanger. And by that time you will have the proper equipment to begin teaching the children those highly important habits of self reliance and responsibility and orderliness.

And now, that menu that I promised you yesterday for an economy luncheon or dinner of canned vegetables -- an economy dinner that has flavor, too. Here is the menu:

Diced beets with crisp bacon; Canned hominy; Green beans; Lettuce with cheese dressing; Tea, and cinnamon toast.

Let me repeat those items for the vegetable dinner menu: Diced beets with crisp bacon; Canned hominy; Green beans; Lettuce with cheese dressing; Tea, and cinnamon toast.

And if you want the recipe for making diced beets with crisp bacon, get ready to take it down. Everybody set? All right, the recipe for Diced Beets with crisp bacon. Four ingredients. Here they are:

1 # 2 can beets, diced	Salt and
6 slices bacon	Pepper

I'll repeat those four ingredients: (REPEAT)

Now, fry the bacon until crisp, remove from the pan and chop fine. Heat the beets in the bacon fat, add the crisped meat with salt and popper to taste. Serve with vinegar if desired.

All right, there you have the menu and the recipe for today. Tomorrow, I am going to answer some of your recent questions by talking about economical efficient kitchen equipment.

